Response for Regional EJ call

State: LA
EPA Program Office: Air
EJ Contact- Gloria Vaughn

DENKA AMBIENT AIR MONITORING
Community Ambient Air Monitoring Program

- From 2016 to 2020, EPA has conducted a Community Ambient Air Monitoring program and has collected over 2,500 samples to monitor the concentrations of chloroprene in the ambient air.
- EPA's air monitoring data from the Community Air Monitoring Program, implemented in LaPlace since 2016, shows the annual average ambient air concentrations of chloroprene near the Denka facility in 2019 (after Denka's implementation of chloroprene emission control measures) was 0.5-2.3 $\mu g/m^3$, depending upon the location of the monitor.
- EPA projects that the annual average would be lower but for occasional elevated concentrations that contribute to the average.
- Chloroprene data is posted publicly at: : [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary" \h].

SPod Air Monitoring Program

- In March 2020, EPA began an SPod Air Monitoring Programs seeking to capture and measure short-term concentrations of chloroprene and identify possible unaccounted for sources within the facility.
- By September 2020, EPA anticipates completing the Initial Phase of this program.
- The Initial Phase includes instrumentation quality checks, collection and processing of data to assess the sampling equipment performance, and development of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) trigger concentrations and averaging periods for canister samples at each of the six locations.
- The Operational Phase for the program will begin with completion of the Initial Phase and operate until December 2020.
- Chloroprene data from the program will be posted publicly at: [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary" \h].

State: Arkansas
EPA Program Office: Air
EJ Contact- Omari Burrell

Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)

- Does the EPA see an explosion in the EV industry?
- What does the EPA think needs to happen with a network of EV charging stations throughout the USA?

- Will the EPA offer incentives for installation of EV charging stations?

EPA doesn't have a policy statement on these questions. Here are some applicable resources.

1) Last fall, EPA organized a webinar on electric vehicle trends and projections. You can find the recording, slides, and a transcript here: [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/statelocalenergy/webinar-electric-vehicle-trends-and-projections"]
   Another resource is DOE's Argonne National Laboratory. ANL publishes an overview of monthly and cumulative electric & plug-in hybrid electric sales in the U.S., see: [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.anl.gov%2Fes%2Flight-duty-electric-drive-vehicles-monthly-sales-updates&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215976763&sdata=sDJXmC0jqxs0OtLO%2FTfBkdkt1vCPb8cU5oGWxNPwwYY%3D&reserved=0"]
2) Some studies and analytical tools that could be helpful--DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory analyzed how much charging infrastructure may be needed in the U.S. to support electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (see the national analysis here: [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrel.gov%2Fdocs%2Ffy17osti%2F69031.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215976763&sdata=%2F3c8DkqH4IpeTjM8SUFK6h%2FJPXgqnbfOBFgh0intyqw%3D&reserved=0"]). NREL also provides a tool to estimate infrastructure needs at the city- and state-level: [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fafdc.energy.gov%2Fevi-pro-lite&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215986753&sdata=WzFCu4XudKVKhgjckrQA1rpBJodg9tPPl6jpF1B%2B%2BDE%3D&reserved=0"]
3) We are not aware of current EPA funding available for EV infrastructure. There are EV infrastructure funds available to states through the VW settlement. Here is a list of federal laws and incentives related to electricity (compiled by DOE): [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fafdc.energy.gov%2Ffuels%2Flaws%2FELEC%3Fstate%3DUS&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215986753&sdata=wNY6XH9XH7b9iW3gV9mt1BzASOS9o6OuMTieStcTfNo%3D&reserved=0"]

In general, the national competitive DERA grants may allow for retrofitting or replacement of vehicle engines with electric engines. The grant allowances change from year to year, so careful reading of the eligible diesel emissions reduction solutions requirements in the request for applications is necessary.

State: Texas
EPA Program Office: Air
EJ Contact-Arturo Blanco

Bakeyah would like to discuss issues related to ethylene oxide outline in her April 8, 2020 letter to Administrator Wheeler. Bakeyah's letter (EO-OIG-Final-04-08-2020) is attached.

We need to know from David Gray what updates can the region provide to Air Alliance that are from the Administrator on ethylene oxide?

- EPA continues its pursuit of a two-pronged strategy to address ethylene oxide emissions.
    - We are reviewing regulations for facilities that emit ethylene oxide.
        - In May 2020, we issued the final risk and technology review for the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing, which will significantly reduce ethylene oxide and other hazardous air pollutants from covered processes and equipment at chemical plants. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 12, 2020.
        - Later this year, we anticipate issuing proposed amendments to the NESHAP for ethylene oxide commercial sterilizers.
    - We are providing support to our state and local partners as they get more information about emissions from facilities in areas where our National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)[1] identified potentially elevated risk from ethylene oxide.
- EPA Region 6 is continuing to work with our State partners and is providing them support on their efforts in developing information on ethylene oxide.
- While EPA is not conducting facility-focused monitoring at this time. Our monitoring experts have made, and will continue to make themselves available to provide technical assistance for agencies and organizations wishing to monitor ethylene oxide in their communities.

State: Oklahoma
EPA Program Contact: Air
EJ Contact: Arturo Blanco

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded the state of Oklahoma a grant of $162,000 for air toxics programs. The grant will fund the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) efforts in supporting EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) to study and characterize toxic air pollutants.
- ODEQ will use the grant for its National Air Toxics Trends Stations (NATTS), which monitor ambient levels of toxic air pollutants. These pollutants, also called air toxics, are known or suspected to cause serious health effects such as cancer or birth defects. Oklahoma's NATTS project supports the NATA program's efforts to use monitoring data to identify areas of concern, characterize risk and track progress in improving air quality. The new monitor will be located Tulsa, OK.

[1] NATA is a screening tool, designed to tell EPA and state and local air agencies where they may wish to look closer at potential risks. Because NATA is a screen, additional work often is necessary to more fully understand the risks that NATA identifies as being potentially elevated.